Revival

Silent night-Holy night

"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleeps in heavenly peace,
Sleeps in heavenly peace."

Hab.3:2 O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known.

Intro. The use of religious terms in the every day life of the world.

Insurance Convention- Each agent a missionary.
In football game- The kicker "converted" and made the extra point.
In business-You must have faith and vision.
The coming ideal of business- Service

If the world is not ashamed to use such terms as carry religious significance, why should Xns be ashamed to use them?

One such term I choose tonight for our theme. Found in the text. Read.

The pussy-willow. Always gives delight because it suggests Spring. Spring is revivel of all growing things. Someone has said, "A revival is the Springtime of religion, the renovation of life and gladness."

The word, "Revival", has been so much abused as to giv to many an unpleasant impression. Yet the word breathes nothing but delight. Just as Springtime means all the earth filled the beauty and fragrance of blossoms and new budding forth so revival means the same in the realm of religion. Habbakkuk was praying for all the joy and beauty of heaven when he said, "O Lord, revive thy work.

I. **First of all we surely need a revival.**

Picture a time of drought- a dry and parched land- cattle dying of thirst on ranges, all vegetation withering, the people suffering under a hot and burning sun- then turn your mind to the welcome shower and its speedy relief, and at once you think of a revival.

The fire is almost out and the house is cold. Yu stir the embers and lay on some more fuel and when it blazes and the warmth begins to fill the room, you feel the glowing heat and experience a pleasant sensation- you experience a revival.

Business is dull and the times are hard. Men are out of employment and the merchants are heavily in debt. What is it that all long for and pray for, but a revival of business and a return of p rosperity.

The Church is cold. Xns are self-indulgent and the world can see no difference between those in the church and those out of it.

2.

What does the Church need? A revival! That is why thousands of ministers are praying for it and tens of thousands of the more earnest members. Yes, the Churd needs to pray as Habbakuk did, O Lord, revive thy work.

II. Steps we must take to bring about the much needed revival.

1. Ask for it. "Ask and ye shall reveive."

2. We must expect to get it. We must take God at his wor and not doubt Him. — Some feeble stuff that the Church cannot survive — Jesus Christ is its head.

3. We must pitch in and work for it. The faith that pra prays and then sits stil and does nothing about it is not faith, nor is such praying prayer.

We have to work for our Spring blossoms- we prune and cultivate and spray and thin out.

A revival costs something. We must be willing to pay the cost of a careful preparation, both on the part of the preacher and the church. We need to prepa e for the great work in mind, body and soul.

The history of the Church shows that God s method of purifying and enlarging his Church has been by great epochs of spiritual revival. They were needed in t the past and revivals are need today.

The greatest word in the Bible is God
" Sweetest word,, ,, ,, ,, Love.
,, tenderest ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Come.
,, longest word ,, ,, ,, ,, Eternity.
,, shortest ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,, ,,, Now.

And what momentous issues hang on these words! It is Jesus Christ who gives to these words such potency

Out clam hunting at low tide. Vast areas of mud. Boats stuck. Deep-water vessels cannot reach port. But the tide comes rolling in, anchors are weighed and harbors are entered. What was once mud is now a beautiful sheet of water.

The Church need revival

Sick girl (16 yrs old) a chronic invalid shut in at home with a nurse to care for her. Pleasure loving mother trabeling abroad. On gorl's virthday nurse hands her a beautiful vase sent to her by her mother. "Take it away, take it away. O mother, mother, do not send me anything more; no books, no flowers, no vases, no pictur s. Send me no more. I want you. I want you!"